

The Senate Highways & Transportation 2003-05 Biennial Budget and 10-Year Investment Package

A Comprehensive Package of Reforms, Funding Options and Investments

1. Improving the Delivery of Transportation Services:

The Senate package starts by improving the accountability and oversight of our state's transportation agencies. Efficiency measures reform prevailing wage and contracting laws to ensure that new revenues are spent wisely. Regional options allow local governments to directly address congestion problems and partner with the state's investment package.

Accountability

- √ Performance audits (SSB 5748 – Passed Legislature.)
- √ Strengthening the state transportation planning process
(Budget Provisos in the Legislative Transportation Committee)
- √ Have legislators directly involved in project planning process
(ESB 5245 – Passed Legislature.)

Efficiency

- √ Contracting out, prevailing wage reforms and transportation efficiencies
(ESSB 5248 – Passed Legislature.)
- √ Permit efficiency streamlining (ESB 5279 - C 008 L 03)
- √ Ferry terminal alternative contracting (SSB 5520 - Senate refuses to concur in House amendments.)
- √ Authorizing public transportation benefit areas and ferry districts to operate passenger-only ferry service (ESHB 1853 – Passed Legislature)
- √ Exercising sound business practices to enhance revenues for WA State Ferries
(SSB 5974 – Passed Legislature)

Regional Options

- √ Regional Transportation Investment District Area Equity (SHB 2033 – Passed Legislature.)
- √ Regional Transportation Investment District Bonding
(SB 5769 - in House Transportation)
- √ Local gas tax (SSB 5247 - in House Transportation)
- √ Provide local regions opportunities for local control (Transportation Benefit Districts, PSSB 5585 - Senate Rules)

Senate Package Continued:

2. New Transportation Revenues: 10-Year Estimates

(Dollars in Thousands)

Revenues Restricted to Highway Use (18th Amendment):

▪ 5 Cent Gas Tax Increase	\$1,747,250
▪ 15% Increase to Weight Fees	\$ 118,224
▪ Title Fee Transfer to Nickel Account	\$ 58,500

Total Cash Revenue	\$1,923,974
Bond Proceeds	\$2,600,000
Debt Service on New Bonds	(\$950,471)

Revenues Available for any Transportation Investment:

▪ Sales Tax on Motor Vehicles (Three tenths of one percent)	\$ 347,797
• Plate Retention Fee	\$ 40,000

Total Cash Revenue	\$ 383,209
Bond Proceeds	\$ 349,500
Less Debt Service	(\$132,100)

Total 10-Year Revenues: \$4,178,700

3. New Transportation Investments:

The Senate package is sized to fix congestion problems in the 36 counties and be the foundation for RTID in the Puget Sound region. The package makes specific project appropriations to hold the Department of Transportation to cost estimates and timelines. New revenue is kept separate to make sure that it is dedicated only to identified projects. New revenue goes away when projects are completed.

Senate New Revenue Project Selection Criteria:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Safety benefits, including high accident locations | 6. Water/habitat fix |
| 2. Measurable congestion relief benefits | 7. Partner funding |
| 3. Freight benefit | 8. Special federal program |
| 4. Direct economic development benefit | 9. Cost benefit |
| 5. Transit/pedestrian benefit | |

Senate Package Continued:

4. 10-Year Transportation New Law Budget Highlights:

- **\$3,396 million** is provided for highway construction projects
 - **Amount of funding provided to specific projects: 93.2%**

	<u>Senate</u>
Lane miles added	269
Completes usable segments*	99
New interchanges	11
Significant interchange improvements	25
Projects that include HOV lanes	16

** state highway mobility and safety improvement segments*

- **\$144 million** is provided for track improvements, a trainset, and operating costs to fund 2 additional round trips between Seattle and Vancouver, WA.
- **\$67 million** is provided for a new auto ferry (in addition to 3 new auto ferries provided for in current law).
- **\$231 million** is provided for the Mukilteo multimodal terminal, the Anacortes multimodal terminal, the Edmonds Multimodal terminal, and preservation of terminals at Lopez, Friday Harbor, Bremerton, Seattle, Vashon, Tahlequah, Southworth, and Point Defiance.

Senate Package Continued:

5. 2003-05 Biennium Transportation Budget:

Department of Transportation Highway Activities:

(Current & New Law)

- **\$983 million** is provided for the design, right of way and construction of projects that improve mobility, safety and the efficiency of moving freight and goods on the state highway system. Also included are environmental retrofit projects. Also included is \$500 thousand to study the feasibility of developing a Washington Commerce Corridor.
- **\$289 million** is provided for maintenance activities on the state highway system. Maintenance activities include damage repair, installation of drainage systems and maintenance on bridges, tunnels and rest areas.
- **\$661 million** is provided to preserve, improve the safety and the structural integrity of the state highway system. This funding is used to repair, repave and restripe highways as well as to restore existing facilities.
- **\$39 million** is provided for traffic operations, including the continuation of the expanded incident response program and \$4M for low cost enhancements.
- **\$29 million** is provided for intelligent transportation systems projects and the completion of five weigh-in-motion and CVISN projects.

Ferry and Rail Activities:

(Current & New Law)

- **\$315 million** is provided for the administrative support, maintenance and daily operation of Washington State Ferry vessels and terminals.
 - **\$6 million** is provided for passenger-only ferry service from Bremerton to Seattle for thirteen weeks and from Vashon to Seattle for the biennium.
- **\$183 million** is provided for investment in vessels, terminals and emergency repairs.
- **\$81 million** is provided for the operations and construction of passenger rail and construction of freight rail activities as well as the additional new law capital projects.
 - **\$21 million** is provided for track and safety improvements from Seattle to Bellingham.
- **\$9 million** is provided for freight rail projects that keep trucks off the highway system and encourage economic development by creating jobs.

Senate Package Continued:

Other Transportation Agency Highlights:

(Current & New Law)

Department of Licensing: 8% Increase Over Last Biennium

2001-03 Appropriation: \$171,729,000

2003-05 Appropriation: \$186,192,000

- **\$6.4 million** is provided to enable the agency to move data and computer applications to a server-computing environment.
- **\$543 thousand** is provided to enable the agency to improve computer and network security.
- **\$609 thousand** is provided for the agency to participate in the National Title Information System.
- **\$810 thousand** is provided to enable the agency to replace server hardware and perform server and software maintenance.
- **\$769 thousand** is provided for driver's license integrity issues pertaining to national security.
- **\$2.9 million** for digital plates.

Washington State Patrol: 2% Decrease From Last Biennium**

2001-03 Appropriation: \$257,152,000

2003-05 Appropriation: \$251,099,000

- **\$2 million** is provided for 13 troopers to continue service levels established after the September 11th attack.
- **\$1.0 million** is provided for new servers.
- **\$2.2 million** is provided for Capital improvements; including funding for the Shelton Academy's share of the Shelton water and sewer plan.

** The 2001-03 biennium contained \$5 million in Multimodal expenditures for non-highway activities. These expenditures do not appear in the 2003-05 budget.

Senate Package Continued:

Washington Traffic Safety Commission: 136% Increase Over Last Biennium (Increase mostly attributable to new process of appropriating federal funds.)

2001-03 Appropriation: \$8,813,000

2003-05 Appropriation: \$20,820,000

- **\$1.6 million** is provided for school safety enhancement projects.

Federal money is provided for grants to state and local agencies to support innovative projects to improve traffic safety across a broad spectrum of priority areas and disciplines (i.e., drunk driving task forces, information and education campaigns related to traffic safety, promoting uniform enforcement of traffic safety laws, occupant protection, pedestrian/bicycle safety, motorcycle safety, etc.)